



FDOT, DHSMV Say Record Number of Floridians Are Buckling Up

Annual *Click It or Ticket* campaign pushes safety belt usage numbers higher

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Tallahassee – Florida Department of Transportation Secretary Ananth Prasad and Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles Executive Director Julie Jones announced today that a record number of Floridians are wearing their safety belts. Statewide safety belt use reached 88.1 percent this year following the 2011 *Click It or Ticket* safety belt campaign.

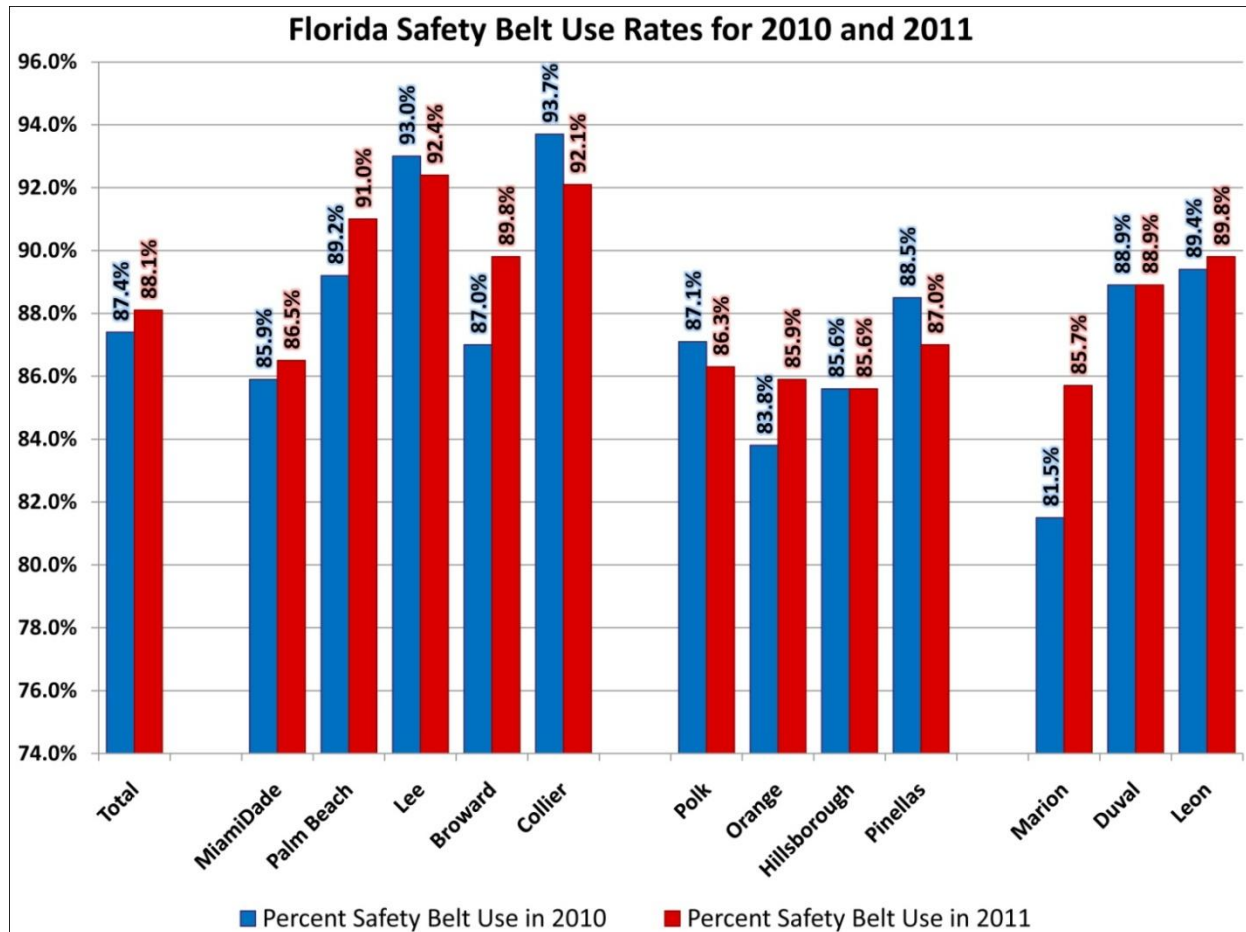
FDOT Secretary Prasad said: “We have made great strides in getting more and more people to buckle up, but we still have a long way to go. We must continue to do even more to meet our vision of delivering a transportation system that is fatality and congestion free.”

Following the *Click It or Ticket* campaign, an observational survey of Florida vehicles was undertaken in June 2011. The survey’s results show an all-time high safety belt usage rate. Increases in 8 of 12 survey counties led Florida to an overall use rate of 88.1 percent compared to 87.4 percent in 2010. Pickup truck drivers and their passengers continue to be among the lowest users.

During the *Click It or Ticket* campaign from May 23 to June 5, law enforcement agencies stepped up patrols and traffic safety efforts while instituting a zero tolerance policy for people not buckled up.

DHSMV Executive Director Julie Jones said: “Florida’s record high safety belt compliance rate is a great example of how effective legislation can be. Lawmakers changed the law to make it easier to enforce, and the men and women of the Florida Highway Patrol and the agencies we partner with stepped up to the challenge to move the state toward our vision of a safer Florida. We are proud to participate in campaigns, such as Click It or Ticket, to raise awareness of such an easy step that all motorists can and should take to make each ride in a motor vehicle safer.”

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The full 2011 safety belt usage final report is available on the FDOT website:
<http://www.dot.state.fl.us/safety/>

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